



Liberty Wings Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2012

Gold Wing
Touring
Association, Inc.

Region F
Pennsylvania
Chapter Y

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Gold Wing Feathers

Dick & Martha Foote
Chapter Directors

I recently thought about a ride we took in 2011. Last summer, we visited the Kinzua Dam in western Pennsylvania, and were told that it is one of the mating locations for the Bald Eagles. We also had an opportunity to watch these birds while on a trip to Alaska.

I found them very similar to GWTA in many ways. Individually, each adult we watched had a different wingspan and flying skill. They shared the responsibilities to feed their family of chicks who showed appetites like a bottomless pit.

I noticed one eagle fluffing its wings as it sat patiently waiting for its partner to relieve him from his turn watching the nest. I realized that without that great plume of feathers that each bird had, they would be helpless regardless of their skills and talents. Each feather is an important ingredient in making the eagle the great hunter and skillful fisherman that it is. Without their healthy plumage, these birds would cease to survive and multiply.

All of our individual members of Chapter Y are just as important as that of a feather. Each one has a part in making our chapter function completely. No, we all would not be the most visible feathers on the wings or head. Some would be equal to the short ones located around the legs of the eagle, which get wet and feel the dirt at times. These feathers are very

important. They are plucked off to provide the down for the eagle's nest after the foundation of sticks has been built first.

We hope everyone will take an active part in this chapter. Don't let your Wing become stuck in the garage. Come out and ride with us. Become involved in the care of our photo journals, newsletter, public relations or ride committees. Who knows you may provide the "down" of a warm handshake and cheerful words of hospitality to first time visitors.

We have *independence* when we ride and show our **Liberty** on our **Wings**.

Coming Events

February 12: Bowling Challenge

February 25: Reading Terminal

April: MCC Sale Days

June 2: Tour de Cure Ride

September: MCC Sale Days

October: Meals with a Purpose

TBA: HHT Poker Ride



The Chapter That Rides — 60,171 in 2011!



Firsts!

Bob & Elaine Williams
Assistant Chapter Directors

Another first for Chapter Y — first meeting and first heavy snow fall of the new year. Twenty-two members, 4 press and 2 guests braved the snow to come and honor Allan, who did a great job of explaining what HHT is. Plenty of flash going off between the press and our members. Everybody enjoyed the talk.

A special thanks to the PR committee for getting the press out on such a nasty day. Thanks to all the members that came out and helped at the Meals with a Purpose on the 29th of January. The back room group had a ball laughing and just being ourselves. Lots of good food.

Don't forget to sign up for the Reading Terminal train trip on the 25th of this month. Looking forward to see this years riding schedule.

		<h2>Birthdays</h2>
5	Bob Becker	
19	Joe Miller	
20	Craig Famous	
		<h2>Anniversaries</h2>
14	Bruce & Ellyn Raskin	

It's not too early to start planning for



July 23-26 at the Lake of the Ozarks, MO

Contact Dave Youells or Bob Williams if you are planning to go. There will be a planning meeting to organize traveling plans and decisions.



On February 2nd, Allan Oltisky and his son, Scott, will start their 8 day journey up the 19,340 ft. of Mt. Kilimanjaro to once again raise awareness for HHT, the disease that has affected five generations of their family. Their goal is to raise \$19,340, one dollar for each foot they climb. At the January meeting, Chapter Y presented Allan with a check for \$200 to help them toward their goal. Shown in the photo are: Martha & Dick Foote, chapter directors; Allan & Gwen Oltisky; and Bob and Elaine Williams, assistant chapter directors.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Road Rage or Aggressive Driving

Dan Reisinger
Chapter Educator

Do you realize that a generation ago the term “road rage” did not exist? Looking at the timeline of generations this would equate on the average of 25 years. There have always been people who were rude, selfish jerks behind the steering wheel of their vehicles, but it was not as prevalent and common place enough to have its own term and statistics. It was not regarded as a serious transportation issue.

Today road rage is considered a serious public health threat and major contributor to traffic collisions and deaths. Drivers get impatient and start speeding, tailgating, honking horns and making gestures to other drivers who are “in their way” or are slowing them down. Sometimes those other drivers decide they are not going to take it any longer and respond in kind which escalates the incident to road rage status.

When it reaches that level it gets dangerous and sometimes fatal. In 2010 the Road and Travel Magazine collected statistics in multiple surveys regarding aggressive driving and their age groups. They showed drivers between 18 and 24 (67%) to be more aggressive than drivers 65 and older (30%). Drivers with children were more likely to respond aggressively (59%) than those without children (45%) which was quite surprising to the magazine staff. They also found an unexpected difference between cell phone users (59%) versus people who do not use cell phones while driving (39%). As for aggressive reactions men (54%) are more likely than women (46%) to do so. However, according to statistics women are quickly closing that gap. This is one gap that is not complimentary to be achieving.

Dr. Ricardo Martinez, who headed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration from 1994 to 1999, declared before his departure that road rage had become the number one traffic problem in the nation. The NHTSA recorded 66% of all annual traffic fatalities were caused by aggressive driving, such as passing on the right, running red lights, and tailgating.

Evidence shows that there has been a 51% increase in aggressive driving incidents since 1990 and they have gotten more violent over the years. Thirty seven percent involved the use of firearms, 28% other weapons, and 35% involved the use of a car as a weapon.

The problem is so serious that insurance companies are devising ways to deny insurance or increase the rates to aggressive drivers and cut the rates for peaceful drivers. How many have seen the Progressive Insurance commercial lately that has the Snapshot? A device that will record your driving habits and rate your coverage based on those habits. Allstate’s accident free bonus reward check to encourage drivers to avoid aggressive measures and getting involved in accidents that could have been prevented. State Farm offers drivers a discount if they have completed a defensive driving course.

So what effect does this have on us as motorcyclist? We have to watch out for these events more and more each riding season. Looking at when road rage and aggressive driving is at its peak, it is during our riding season. People are in a hurry to get to their destinations whether it is the local grocery store, mall, or vacation spot and we are many times in the path of that destination.

We want to be aware of all the vehicles around us. Not just the one ahead of us but several car lengths beyond that vehicle. We want to be aware of not just the vehicle behind us but the several behind them. When on a 4 or more lane road we want to be aware of what is happening in those lanes because we are invisible and someone can be changing lanes into us without even noticing we are there until the last moment.

We want to make sure when we get on our motorcycles we take the time to check our mental and emotional health. Are we upset about something at home or from the job? Are we tired or fatigued? Both of these conditions can lead to being the victim of aggressive driving - whether the instigator or the recipient.

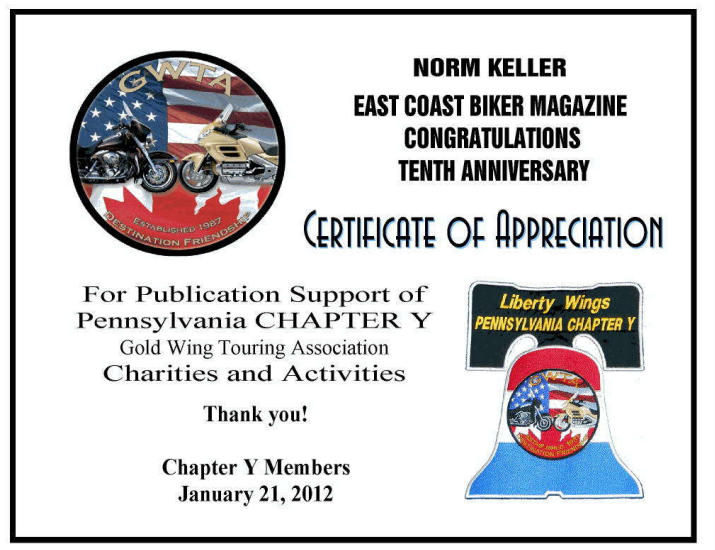
Riding should be an activity of enjoyment and refreshing affects. A great way to enjoy spring coming to life or summer’s long days or autumn’s colors. When you are out there driving or riding take a moment and enjoy the day.

The action of responding to an aggressive driver is what escalates that aggressive to rage. If you are confronted with an aggressive driver, be calm, give them distance by slowing down slightly (but stay within the speed limit even if only a couple miles per hour below the posted speed), accept that you can be a few minutes late, and avoid using your horn.



At the January meeting, Peggy Kratz presented Norm Keller, editor and publisher of East Coast Biker with a certificate of appreciation (shown below). Keller has published many of the articles that Peggy has submitted to the magazine.

Photo courtesy of Darlene Dusza



Classified Ad

2005 Escapade Motorcycle Trailer: Silver Metallic, garment bag, chrome wheels, full cover, chrome tongue with cooler; only has been used twice. \$3500 Contact John or Michele DeHaven , 610-656-5503 or jdandmichele@comcast.net

REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE

Chapter Y members are saving register tapes from Redner's Supermarkets in the SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM.

You **must** be enrolled in the program first to enable the chapter to use your tape as part of a 1% rebate. Stop in at any Redner's Customer Service office and ask for a card. Use it each time you shop.

Please place your tapes in the labeled container on the information table at our gatherings or give them to Jeff & Nancy Landis.

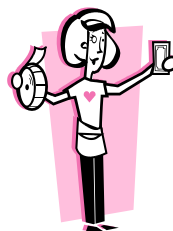
Ride safe!

50/50 News



In addition to the cash prizes raffled off during monthly meetings, the Ways and Means Committee are accepting gift donations as door prizes. Donations should be gift wrapped or bagged and will be given away during the monthly 50/50 drawings.

"At the January meeting we had four door prizes donated and thanks go out for those donations," says Dennis & Audrey Michener.



Please contact Dennis or Audrey if you have an item you would like to donate.

